RESOLUTION: **F2017-SR3**

TITLE: **Midd Day**

SPONSORS: **Rae Aaron, Speaker**
Jin-Mi Sohn, President

DATE: **October 8, 2017**

Whereas Middlebury prides itself on its location and "sense of place" in the beautiful Champlain Valley between the Green Mountains and Adirondacks (in the Envisioning Middlebury mantra);

Whereas Middlebury is currently working on reviving old traditions and creating new traditions;

Whereas numerous fun outdoor activities including various hiking trails and swimming areas at the Middlebury Snow Bowl, Lake Dunmore, and Breadloaf are accessible within a half-hour drive of campus;

Whereas many students lack transportation means to access and explore Vermont's natural landscapes and community engagement opportunities beyond their MiddView orientation trip;

Whereas there are a few days each year during which it is too gorgeous a day to be in a classroom or the library;

Whereas there are few opportunities for students to interact with the staff and faculty outside of daily routines and classroom settings;

Whereas student lives are over-scheduled and rely heavily on routines;

Whereas the faculty and student body, especially with regard to mental health, would benefit from a day of relief from work to enjoy the outdoors;

Whereas students should have opportunities to balance intellectual pursuits with outdoor activities;[1]

Whereas many of our peer institutions have organized similar 'Mountain Days' and have successfully implemented these days into their institutions' traditions;[2]

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[1] https://www.mtholyoke.edu/mountain-day

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain_Day

Be it therefore resolved…

That the Student Government Association recommends President Patton designate one week-day each academic year as a "Midd Day";

That the Midd Day be announced up to two days beforehand and classes be canceled or rescheduled to another day;

That the College provides free transportation to and from Lake Dunmore and the Snow Bowl, other appropriate activities revolving around (Vermont) the outdoors, and with more accessible options for all.

That faculty and staff are encouraged to partake in Vermont Exploration Day festivities with the students;

Finally, that the Administration and Students embrace this day as a new community tradition and work together on ways to make activities accessible, inclusive, and fun for all Middlebury students.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Aaron, Speaker
Jin Sohn, President

Vote Count

In Favor: President Sohn, Co-Chair of Community Council Wright (Proxy Rainey), Senator Mahboob, Senator Pustejovsky, Senator Pandey, Senator Warfel, Senator Goldfield, Senator Vijayakumar, Speaker Aaron, Senator Fleischer, Senator Gosselin, Senator Koontz, Senator McCormick, Senator Andrews, Senator Salas

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

F2017-SR3 passes 17-0-0